

**COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS (COMIO)**

P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
Allan H. Lammers, Executive Officer



September 1, 2008

RE: BEST PRACTICES ANNOUNCEMENT – 2009

Greetings to Service Providers for Mentally Ill Offenders in California including public or private, county or state agencies, courts, jails, mental health, probation, parole, police, sheriff and multi-agency collaborations:

A major function of the California Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO) is to encourage effective creative services in an ongoing effort to identify best practices. The COMIO Board once again in 2009 intends to recognize providers who successfully treat mentally ill patients within the state and county criminal justice systems. We are looking at primary and secondary prevention: decreasing the likelihood that these patients come to the attention of law enforcement; decreasing the likelihood that, when contacted by law enforcement, arrest occurs; decreasing the likelihood that arrest leads to incarceration. Toward secondary prevention we seek to improve 'case finding' and then improve the care of those found. Then, through discharge planning and community follow-up for example, we want to decrease re-offense, re-arrest, and re-incarceration. Finally, we want to identify the best measures of success in meeting these objectives always with public safety as a priority.

There are many good practices and great ideas in California. We want to know about them and, more important, we want your peers to know about them as well. Some counties have done much work in many of these areas, and we want to hear of those successes. What are the best practices our mental health providers and law enforcement officials have devised? What barriers were overcome in gaining these successes? How can we measure and publicize those successes? Which of these interventions can be replicated? What might be the barriers to replication?

To be considered for the 2009 Best Practices Awards, you must complete and submit the attached *2009 Survey For Best Practices*. **Completed surveys must be sent by email no later than Wednesday, November 26, 2008.** To be eligible for an award, a project must have been active more than 24 months. COMIO Members are excited about building upon the fine examples of Best Practice projects awarded in 2008 and encourage your participation because:

- What we all do matters and you can help us make a difference by sharing your knowledge
- Together we can improve the care of mentally ill offenders
- This effort has the potential to save California taxpayers money at the state and county levels
- We believe dissemination of knowledge about effective programs can decrease suffering while improving public safety
- Sharing experiences can improve the efficient use of resources in all areas

All projects entered will be acknowledged publicly in the annual COMIO report publication whether or not the project is recognized in a "best practices category" for 2009. So, we invite you to respond to the 2009 Survey. Let us know what you have done, how you determined whether you had success, what clinical or fiscal metrics you employed, and what is unique or what you are most proud of in your project?

On behalf of each COMIO Board Member, we thank you for your time, interest and commitment!

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Cate (COMIO Chairperson), Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Steven W. Mayberg, Ph.D. (COMIO Vice Chairperson), Director, California Department of Mental Health  
Joel Fay, PsyD., Officer, San Rafael Police Department  
David Lehman, Chief, Humboldt County Probation Department (Ret.)  
The Honorable Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court  
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center  
David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law & Behavioral Science, USC California Keck School of Medicine  
Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, Programs, San Francisco Jail Health Services  
James W. Sweeney, Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates  
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department